

<p style="text-align: center;">WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT for Region 8 Week ending May 12, 2017</p>

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

EPA and USFS develop joint Non-Time Critical Removal Action for Libby Superfund Site

Key Message: This action will allow for continued fire preparedness within asbestos-contaminated forests near the WR Grace vermiculite mine.

- Asbestos contamination in the forest could be liberated as a result of a wildfire, potentially exposing firefighters to unacceptable risk as well as impacting critical infrastructure (tailings dam and drinking water resources).
- Region 8 is seeking expedited HQ OLEM signature of the Action Memo in order to implement these preparedness measures prior to the start of fire season, which begins in June.
- The state of Montana and Lincoln County are supportive of this response action.
- Contact: Christina Progross, 312-6009

The Bonita Peak Mining District team to meet with New Mexico's Gold King Mine Citizens' Advisory Group (CAG) May 22, 2017, in Farmington, New Mexico.

Key Message: EPA is meeting with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) to provide an update on the Bonita Peak Mining District project.

- EPA's presentation will focus on 2017 planned activities and opportunities for public comment on a Proposed Plan later this year.
- Information shared will be very similar to the information provided during public meetings in Silverton, Durango and Farmington in late April.
- Region 8's Enforcement Office and Office of Regional Counsel, as well as the Department of Justice, are aware of this planned meeting.
- Contact: Rebecca Thomas, 312-6552

Lower Brule Sioux to host Tribal Response/Brownfields workshop

Key Message: During the week of May 15, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe (SD) will host tribes from across Region 8 to discuss CERCLA 128(a) Tribal Response/Brownfields Program opportunities & challenges.

- Under a cooperative agreement with the EPA Headquarters, Kansas State University's Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) staff will provide Lower Brule Sioux facilitation assistance throughout the workshop.
- EPA Region 8 will have two staff from EPR participating throughout the 2.5-day meeting.
- With tribes from across EPA Regions 5 & 7 also invited, up to 40 tribes may be represented.
- At Region 8's recommendation/request, OLEM OBLR is sending a representative to solicit input on the CERCLA 128(a) annual funding allocation process.
- This will be OLEM OBLR's third in-person CERCLA 128(a) allocation meeting, having already received feedback from states & tribes at events in Cleveland, OH and Dallas, TX.
- Contact: Danny Heffernan, 312-7074

EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Funding is gaining traction in Wyoming

Key Message: On May 10, Mayor Marian Orr, hosted a diverse set of stakeholders – including EPA – to discuss brownfields cleanup and reuse resources and opportunities in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

- A mix of approximately 40 lenders, developers, consultants, and public officials heard presentations on environmental and economic aspects of brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.

- EPA personnel presented on grants and technical requirements, as well as provided case studies from other Region 8 communities.
- Since 2011, the EPA has provided Cheyenne with \$2.2m in Brownfields grants and contractual assistance to conduct public involvement, plan for, assess and provide low interest loans to clean up brownfield properties throughout the City's West Edge District.
- EPA held a side meeting with management from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and the Wyoming Business Council to discuss their desire to capitalize a statewide brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund (RLF).
- A representative from the Colorado Housing & Finance Authority (CHFA) provided Wyoming officials with insights into the Colorado Brownfields RLF program. Established in 1999, Colorado's RLF has provided over \$15m in cleanup funding to borrowers across the state resulting in \$930m in redevelopment and 3,039 jobs leveraged.
- Contact: Danny Heffernan, 312-7074

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

No report

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Region 8 Presenting at National Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Annual Training Meeting in Denver, Colorado

Key Message: On May 16, 2017, the Sustainable Management of Food Lead will present on community-based social marketing at a meeting for the small business assistance program.

- Virginia Till will present: Improving Compliance Through Behavior Change Messaging
- Customized hands-on activity included.
- This annual training meeting is hosted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- Website: <https://nationalsbeap.org/training>
- Will include approximately 45 attendees representing 35 states.
- Contact: Virginia Till, 312-6008; Kimberly Pardue-Welch, 312-6983

Region 8 Presenting at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Pollution Prevention Advisory Board Meeting

Key Message: On May 23, 2017, the Sustainable Management of Food Lead and the Sustainable Materials Management Lead will present at the monthly CDPHE Pollution Prevention Advisory Board Meeting.

- Topics presented: 1) Sustainable Management of Food and 2) Sustainable Materials Management and the Built Environment.
- This is a monthly meeting hosted by CDPHE.
- Includes approximately 20 attendees from state and local governments, non-profits, business and others.
- Website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/ppab-members>
- Contact: Virginia Till, 312-6008; Kimberly Pardue-Welch, 312-6983

OFFICE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

No report

OFFICE OF WATER PROTECTION

EPA Region 8 webinar presentation on Partnerships with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and States on May 2.

Key Message: During a webinar focused on working with agricultural partners and at the request of EPA HQ, Region 8 presented our experience partnering with NRCS and the resulting successful outcomes.

- The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission hosted the webinar
- The webinar was attended by 182 participants from 32 states and organizations, Elite Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Ohio River Sanitation Compact, United States Department of Agriculture, and American Clean Water Association, as well as Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.
- The presentation was focused on protecting water quality while ensuring viable, sustainable agriculture.
- Specifically, Region 8 presented on our partnership work to improve water quality and soil health in the lower Arkansas River Valley, Colorado, and implementation of non-point source Best Management Practices with NRCS conservation practices to improve water quality in North Dakota.
- Feedback from attendees was positive.
- Contact: Eric Steinhaus 312-6837; Judy Bloom 312-6395

Office of Water Protection (OWP) Drinking Water Program Holds Annual Meeting for State Directors May 16-17, 2017

Key Message: The Region 8 OWP Drinking Water Program holds our annual in-person meeting with state drinking water program directors next week.

- This meeting improves working relationships between the EPA and our Region 8 states. We discuss successes, challenges, practices to improve resource efficiencies and implement new regulations, and new technology.
- Topics for discussion include: National Program Measures, Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Act, Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF), Lead and Copper (LCR) and Action Level Exceedances (ALEs).
- We'll have facilitated discussion on success/challenges on LCR and Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) and relevant implementation updates.
- Topics also include introducing the updated state oversight framework and in-depth discussion on new essential data management tools Communication Management Development Plan and Safe Drinking Water Information System Prime.
- Contacts: Sarah Bahrman 312-6243; Gwen Campbell 312-6463

Region 8 hosted a Tribal 319 Nonpoint Pollution call on May 4, 2017.

Key Message: The first call in a series with Region 8 tribes focused on the characteristics of a good nonpoint source restoration projects.

- Representatives from ten Region 8 tribes and staff from Region 10 and HQ participated in the call.
- Due to tribal staff turnover in Nonpoint Source (NPS) positions a future call will focus on introductory watershed restoration information.
- Contact: Peter Ismert 312-6215, Judy Bloom 312-6395

Public Hearings on the Draft Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permits for the Dewey Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Project Continue the Week of May 8, 2017.

Key Message: Region 8 held public hearings in three locations in South Dakota the week of May 8 on the draft UIC permits and associated aquifer exemption for the Dewey Burdock ISR project located in Edgemont, SD.

- Hearings were held this week in the following locations:
 - May 8-9 in Rapid City, SD
 - May 10 in Hot Springs, SD

- May 11 in Edgemont, SD
- A total of 300 people attending the hearings in Rapid City including several commenters who identified as tribal members. The Chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe also commented on the record expressing their concerns with the project and with EPA's consultation on the proposed action.
- Small protests have occurred outside the locations prior to each hearing.
- The comments have been overwhelming in opposition of the project, but attendees have been civil and respectful.
- Press attended the hearings which resulted in several print, television and radio stories:
 - Black Hills Fox
 - Keloland
 - NBC News in Rapid City
 - ABC News in Rapid City
 - Black Hills Fox (2nd)
 - South Dakota Public Broadcasting Radio
- The public comment period is set to end on May 19, 2017; however, EPA received a request from the company to extend the public comment period until July 21, 2017. Region 8 will review the request and make a decision on extending the comment period next week once the team returns from South Dakota.
- Contact: Darcy O'Connor, 312-6392